

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in reply to the First Office Action dated March 3, 2010. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and further examination of the patent application pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111.

Summary of the Examiner's rejections

Claims 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Van Doorn (US 6,482,017).

Claims 15, 18, 19 and 22 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Summary of amendments

Applicant has cancelled claims 14-15 and 22 (without prejudice), and amended claims 13, 18, 19 and 21. No new subject matter has been added.

Remarks regarding the claim objections

Claims 15, 18, 19 and 22 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 13 to include the limitations of claims 14-15. Plus, Applicant has amended claim 18 to include the limitations of claim 13. In addition, Application has amended claim 19 to include to the limitations of claim 13. Finally, Applicant has amended claim 21 to include the limitations of claim 22. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the removal of this objection and the allowance of independent claims 13, 18, 19 and 22 and their corresponding dependent claims 16-17, 20, and 23-24.

Remarks regarding the §102(b) rejections

Claims 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Van Doorn (US 6,482,017). Applicant respectfully requests the

removal of this rejection in view of the amended independent claims 13, 18, 19 and 22 and their corresponding dependent claims 16-17, 20 and 23-24.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the application to be in a condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all of the pending objections and pending rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for the pending claims 13, 16-21 and 23-24.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees for this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-1379.

Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would expedite or further the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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